

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Application of:

Jeffrey K. Harman, et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: March 15, 2004

Parent Serial No. 10/183,741

Parent Filed: June 26, 2002

For: MINING SYSTEM

Examiner: John J. Kreck

Group Art Unit: 3673

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL**

"EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label No. : EF 402 229 636 US .....  
Date of Deposit: MARCH 16, 2004.....  
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal  
Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10  
on the date indicated above and is addressed to MAIL STOP PATENT  
APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA  
22313-1450

Type or Print Name: DEBBIE HARGROVE

Signature

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination of the enclosed Continuation Application on the merits and in  
response to the Office Action of August 27, 2003, Applicant submits the following remarks.